

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 COME-00 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W

----- 091173

O 101448Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6609

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 3259

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ECON, BL

SUBJECT: GULF OIL

REF: STATE 109255 AND 108951

1. TENSION AND DRAMA DOMINATED LA PAZ RADIO AND PRESS
ACTIVITIES NIGHT OF MAY 9 AS 9. P.M. DEADLINE SET FOR GULF
REPLY APPROACHED WITHOUT DIRECT RESPONSE TO GOB. ACCORDING TO
GOB AUTHORITIES; AMBASSADOR CAPRILES INFORMED GOB AT ABOUT
8:30 P.M. THAT HE HAD CONVERSATION WITH GULF AND THAT COMPANY WOULD
REPLY DIRECT TO GOB THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN LA PAZ.
I WAS IN FREQUENT TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH ACTING FOREIGN
MINISTER, COL. PEREDA ASBUN, MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO AGREED
WITH MY SUGGESTION THAT DEADLINE BE INTREPRETED AS 10 A.M.
MAY 10. HE THEN TOLD PRESS THAT TRANSMISSION DIFFICULTIES WERE
DELAYING REPLY WHICH WAS ON ITS WAY. THEN AT SAME MOMENT AS WE
RECEIVED STATE 109255 WITH TEXT GULF REPLY FOR LOCAL REP, CARLOS
DORADO, I WAS CALLED BY ACTING FOMIN WHO SAID CAPRILES HAD CABLED
HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY LUMPKIN THAT ORITZ WOULD TRANSMIT
REPLY TO DORADO THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT. TEXT WAS GIVEN TO
DORADO AT ABOUT 10 P.M. AND HE PRECEDED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
WHERE ACTING FONMIN, MIN ENERGY, SUBSEC OSTRIA AND OTHERS WERE IN
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EVENING-LONG TASK FORCE FORMAT AWAITING GULF REPLY. DORADO

SOUGHT TO HAVE REPLY CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT BANZER AND ATTEMPTED MAKE PRESENTATION ORALLY. ACTING FONMIN EXPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER WAS OUT OF THE CITY ON BRIEF VACATION AND HE AND MIN ENERGY WERE IN CHARGE OF THIS MATTER. HE THEN REFUSED ACCEPT ORAL PRESENTATION AND INSISTED ON WRITTEN REPLY ON GULF STATIONERY, SIGNED BY DORADO. DORADO CONSULTED ME IN VIEW OF TRANSMISSION OF TEXT THROUGH DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. I AUTHORIZED HIM TO CITE US AS MEANS OF TRANSMISSION AND ENCOURAGED TO PUT MESSAGE IN WRITING AND DELIVER IT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. THIS HE DID AND AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT THE PRESIDENTAL PRESS SECRETARY RELEASED FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO PRESS AND RADIO. MORNING PRESS CARRIES PHOTOCOPIES OF LETTER AND ACCOUNTS OF EVENING LONG DRAMA. NO COMMENTS OR CHARACTERIZATIONS YET AVAILABLE FOR GOB OFFICIALS EITHER IN PRIVATE OR IN PRESS OR RADIO. DORADO WILL TRY TO SEE PRESIDENT BANZER FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING TO OBTAIN HIS REACTION TO STATEMENT AND HIS VIEWS ON VISIT OF GULF OFFICIAL.

2. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT WOULD INFORM NESTOR ORTIZ OF LAST NIGHT'S DEVELOPMENTS AND ATTEMPT DESCRIBE PRESSURE AND TENSION EXISTING HERE WHICH LED TO MANNER IN WHICH DORADO, WITH MY ENCOURAGEMENT MADE WRITTEN PRESENTATION TO MIN ENERGY IN LETTER FORM OF COMMUNICATION FROM GULF.

3. WE SEEM TO BE OUT OF THE WOODS FOR THE MOMENT BUT THE GULF STATEMENT ABOUT ITS INABILITY TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT BOLIVIA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GULF WILL PROBABLY KEEP ISSUE ALIVE. UNIVERISTY, LABOR, AND POLITICAL LEADERS, ALL ARE USING GULF AS ISSUE TO CRITICIZE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, TO CALL ATTENTION TO CORRUPTION IN PREVIOUS REGIMES, AND TO GAIN MEASURE OF PUBLIC ATTENTION.

4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW ABOUT ORTIZ/CAPRILES CONVERSATION AT 5:30 PM MAY 9, ESPECIALLY WHETHER TEXT OF GULF STATEMENT HANDED CAPRILES.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750563/aaaacexb.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, ECON, BL, US, GULF OIL CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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